Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0013] as follows:

[0013]   Embodiments in accordance with the invention can provide a solution for enabling telephone users to participate in an IM-based conference. In a typical IM based conference, all participants are connected to an IM server over a data network and every participant's text message is broadcasted to all the parties in the conference. In accordance with one embodiment, users can call into a system using their wireline or wireless phone, hear messages typed in by the IM participants and can participate by speaking their messages which can be transcribed into text and broadcast to the IM participants. Such a system can synthesize text messages into speech, transcribe ~~text~~ speech into text and essentially bridge an IM system and a teleconferencing system. Additionally, the system can be personalized by the user to provide a rich end-user experience.[[.]]

Please amend paragraph [0015] as follows:

[0015]   A conventional phone (26 or 28) participating in the IM conference can also receive IM messages from other devices in the form of a synthesized speech output. For example, a user inputting text on IM device (18 or 20) would transmit their text message to the device 12 via the IM network 14 and the IM system 22. The device 12 can convert the text message to speech and forward or transmit the speech to the phone 26 or 28 via the system 24 and network 16. Optionally, user profiles 13 (with voice prints or other indicia or a particular user) for devices 18 and 20 (and perhaps users of ~~convention~~ conventional phones that have provided some form of identification when entering the IM conference) can enhance the user experience on conventional phones by

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reconstructing speech having a simulated voice print of the sending party.

Please amend paragraph [0017] as follows:

[0017]   With reference to FIG. 2, a flow chart illustrates a method 50 of enabling a phone user to participate in a IM-based conference. Operationally, the system 10 as shown in FIG. 1 would ~~receiver~~ <u>receive</u> a speech input from a telephone through a teleconferencing system at step 52. At step 54, the speech input can be transcribed into a first text message. Optionally, at step 56, the first text message can be translated to another language to provide a translated first text message. The user profile 13 of FIG. 1 can be used to set this additional capability if desired. The first text message can be transmitted at step 58 to a plurality of devices coupled to an instant messaging network belonging to the IM based conference. The first text message can be transmitted as a text stream.